

# COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

April 2002

## EMAN Connects Health Community in Times of Crisis

When anthrax hit the headlines last fall, local doctors didn't have to wait for the nightly news to learn what was happening in San Diego's public health community. They turned to EMAN, the innovative Emergency Medical Alert Network sponsored by HHSA's Community Epidemiology and Emergency Medical Services offices.

Through EMAN, the medical community received regular e-mail updates and access to information on its Web site. Thankfully, no cases were reported in the San Diego area. But it was the network's first big test since its launch in December 1999, and it accomplished exactly what County employees had intended: EMAN proved to be a fast, accurate way to communicate in times of crisis.

"We're epidemiologists, not techies," said Jackie Estey, one of the public health staffers who helped get the project off the ground. "It's success is very much due to people taking their personal interest and excitement and going a couple of extra steps."

EMAN began with a group of 50 infectious disease physicians and a goal to communicate about unusual diseases and potential public health emergencies through e-mail and fax messages. Last May, the Web site was added to provide a place where medical professionals could learn more about communicable diseases and stay in touch with local happenings. Because of its value, the network has skyrocketed to 450 participants, including a range of physicians, nurse practitioners, and laboratory directors.

EMAN has become a model system that public health officials all over the country are talking about.

"Los Angeles and New York recently put together a Web site where they post their alerts to physicians, but that's been since September 11," said Estey, pointing out that San Diego had almost a two-year jump on its communication network.

It's a service that's well appreciated by its audience: 97 percent of users who responded to a recent survey said that EMAN was either "very relevant" or "relevant" to them. One subscriber wrote: "You guys are doing a terrific job. We are getting good reliable information regularly and quickly. Keep up the great work."



## Volunteer Jobs Keep County Workers Busy Helping Others

April is traditionally a time to recognize the contributions of volunteers, so we set out to recognize a few of the many things our employees do when the work day is done. Included in this printed version of *County News* is just a sampling of the stories collected. Please take the time to visit "County News Extra" in the online version of the newsletter for the complete versions of their stories. County News is available on the Intranet (**cww/mpr**) and the Internet (**www.co.san-diego.ca.us/dmpr**, click on "News Center.")

### In Honor of Her Aunt

Mariam Barakzoy, Child Support Services, beams with pride when she talks about her aunt, Afghanistan's Minister of Public Health for the interim government. A respected surgeon and the only woman general in the Afghan army, her aunt is considered a heroine for her stand against the Taliban.

"She's my role model," Barakzoy said. "She motivates me to do more."

Since November, that motivation has turned into action, as Barakzoy has played an active role in the Afghanistan Relief Organization. She spent countless weekend hours on a winter relief project that airlifted clothing, blankets and other humanitarian supplies to aid Afghan people in need.



Mariam Barakzoy

### Fish Tales

Visit The Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography on any given Saturday morning and you'll find Joe DeStefano of Planning and Land Use. A volunteer aquarist, his main project is the reef shark exhibit. He does everything from checking the filtration system and cleaning tank windows to talking with visitors. His duties, on occasion, have taken him into the 15,000-gallon tank to assist in repairs.

### Tip Taker

Community service has always been important to Betsy Rusby, Planning and Land Use, but it was completing her paralegal program in 1999 that really prompted her to act. She's used volunteer work as a way to explore career options and has since amassed an impressive array of volunteer credits. Rusby now works two shifts a week for Crime Stoppers, mainly talking with people who call the Crime Stoppers hotline with tips.

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## NewsBriefs

### Retirement Board Elections

Election day has come and gone for the state, but County employees will be heading to the polls on May 21 for retirement board elections. Up for grabs for a term beginning July 1 are the offices of the Second and Eighth Members, as well as the Alternate Eighth Member. Active, general members of the Retirement Association elect the Second Member of the Board and retired members elect the Eighth Member and the Alternate Eighth Member.

April 15 at noon is the deadline for filing petitions to run for office. For more information, contact Von Jackson, Retirement Board Secretary at (619) 515-6808.

### Executive Board Installation

The San Diego County Latino Association is marking its 19<sup>th</sup> consecutive year with the installation of its new executive board. The celebration will be held on April 20, 5 p.m. at Acapulco Restaurant in Old Town.

The SDCLA is open to all County employees. It offers networking opportunities through mentoring and training, and seeks access to promotional possibilities through participation in County government.

For more information, call Kenneth Stevens (619) 557-4151 or Joaquin Gracida (760) 940-6859.

### Tech Discounts

The Pennant Alliance has helped arrange a selection of telecommunication product discounts for County employees. Pacific Bell is offering specials on voice mail and Internet access. AT&T is offering up to 20 percent discounts on Lucent Consumer products. For more information, go to the "County News Extra" section of the online version of County News available on the Intranet ([cww/mpr](http://cww/mpr)) and the Internet ([www.co.san-diego.ca.us/mpr](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/mpr), click on "News Center").

### Don't Type to Strangers

You may have seen the slogan on buses, bus benches or billboards around the County since February. These public service ads are part of the Protecting Children Online Safety Campaign headed up by the District Attorney's office. The goal of the campaign is to educate parents about the dangers of the Internet and give them the resources to reduce the risk to children. Working alongside the DA's office is the local PTA, Child Abuse Prevention Foundation, and members of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

"Right now, most parents aren't as familiar with the Internet as their children are," said Deputy District Attorney Kathleen Lewis, project coordinator for the campaign. "They don't know how to protect them."

The campaign is actively setting up speaking engagements to teach parent groups, educators and community leaders how to protect children on the Internet. There's

(continued on page 3)



## In Walt's Words

### Two Great Events to Help the Community

There are lots of things to like about spring—warm breezes, baseball, flowers blooming, did I mention baseball? It's also a time when County employees show how much they care about their community through two worthwhile events—WalkAmerica, which benefits the March of Dimes, and the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego County Employees Blood Drive, in conjunction with the San Diego Blood Bank.

Both April events help those who need it most. The research supported by the March of Dimes aims to prevent birth defects and lower infant mortality rates. And the blood supplied to the San Diego Blood Bank can save the lives of people who are facing medical emergencies. We here at the County of San Diego have a fine tradition of participating in both of these annual endeavors.

This year's WalkAmerica will be held April 27 and 28, and the County's goal is to raise \$40,000 for March of Dimes. Alex Martinez, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the Community Services Group, is spearheading the County's efforts. The walks will take place at Legoland in Carlsbad on Saturday, April 27, and at Balboa Park on Sunday, April 28. Employees simply sign up for one of the walks, then get sponsors to contribute to the fund-raising effort. A new high-tech twist this year will allow participants to set up Web sites, which can accept on-line pledges from sponsors. To find out more, contact your department's March of Dimes coordinator, or Ron Kelley at (619) 531-5287.

I'm equally proud of our involvement with the San Diego Blood Bank. This will be the 18<sup>th</sup> annual version of the County Employees Blood Drive, and it's heartening to think about the hundreds, if not thousands, of people in San Diego County who have been helped by your generosity.

This year, there will be 15 different blood drives at County facilities, from April 2-25. You can find the complete schedule on the online version of the March edition of County News, under Media & Public Relations on the County's Intranet and Internet Web sites. Information also will be posted in work areas throughout the County. Contact numbers are included on the schedule.

The need for blood is ongoing, because a pint of donated blood must be used within 42 days. To supply the hospitals it serves, the San Diego Blood Bank needs 400 blood donations per day.

If you have been unable to donate blood in the past because of a medical condition, you might want to try again, as restrictions have recently been eased.

That's all for now, have a great month, and thanks for all your good work!

Walt Ekard  
Chief Administrative Officer

## NewsBriefs

(continued from page 2)

also a Web site with warning signs, tips for parents, and information on how to schedule a speaker. For more information, visit [www.dasafenet.com](http://www.dasafenet.com).

## Child Support Services Makes Computer Conversion

In February, Child Support Services (DCSS) successfully made the leap from their existing computer system to one developed and used by Los Angeles County. Preparation for the conversion began in June 2000 as a result of a directive by the California Department of Child Support Services.

Prior to the conversion, the DCSS Staff Development team prepared more than 800 instruction manuals and held more than 183 classes, averaging 35 hours of formal training for each of the 750 staff members. More than 50 experts worked for six months to insure the data from

the old system was correctly loaded into the new one, and staff spent hundreds of hours in L.A. to increase their familiarity with the system prior to the switch.

The numbers speak for themselves: 99.97 percent of 126,616 child support cases were converted automatically, and over \$1 billion in financial accounts were transferred.

The conversion took the support of many County departments, including the Health and Human Services Agency and the Auditor and Controller's office, as well as numerous outside agencies and the Pen-nant Alliance.

## HCD FLEXes Its Software

Housing and Community Development (HCD) recently implemented a new rental assistance software application known as FLEX. Through FLEX, HCD generates approximately \$4.5 million in monthly payments to over 3,500 landlords for over 8,000 participants in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

In the six months it's been in operation,

FLEX has proven both reliable and user-friendly. In addition to offering increased reporting capabilities over the previous application, FLEX can provide expedited payments to landlords. HCD anticipates an annual savings of approximately \$320,000 over the old application.

## Sesame Street Special

County employees can purchase discounted tickets to Sesame Street Live's "Everyone Makes Music" musical production thanks to the DIBBS program. Tickets are available for the June 7-9 performances at the San Diego Sports Arena. For more information, call (619) 578-5781 or look for a DIBBS flier near you.

## Credit Union Branches Out

San Diego County Credit Union opened a "high tech" branch in Pacific Beach on Garnet Avenue last month, featuring multifunction ATMs, interactive kiosks and an Internet café. For more information, visit [www.sdccu.com](http://www.sdccu.com) or call toll-free (877) SDCCU-4U (732-2848).

# Ver•ba•tim

Letters from satisfied customers served by County employees.

**Eric Enell** (Planning & Land Use) was praised for immediately addressing an abandoned vehicle complaint in Lakeside.

"I want to thank him for his professional demeanor and quick response to a community problem."

**Rebeca Villaverde** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was commended for her help in getting a customer's lien filed.

"I really appreciate that you went back to the top person to fight my cause. I hope something special will come your way as a reward for your kindness."

**Elbert Cruzado** (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was thanked for his thoughtfulness, quick action and good humor in helping a customer straighten out the tax impounds on her mortgage.

"It's warm and caring people like you who let the rest of us know the systems in place can work very, very well!"

**Roger Dixon** (Probation) was acknowledged after restoring a woman's faith in the judicial system for his work on her brother's case.

"He was very informative, courteous and accessible."

**Neil Besse** (Public Defender) was praised for being an organized, compassionate professional in his work with his clients and their families.

"He is a public defender who strikes me as a person who goes the extra mile when it comes to the rehabilitation of these domestic violence offenders who never seem to quite learn their lesson."

**Janet Muncrief** (Trade & Business) impressed a customer with her "get it done" attitude on a project.

"Janet helped break the log jam and then stayed with me while I pulled our building permit to make sure we got through the process with no further delays."

**Terry Akens** (HHSA, Public Health) was called an awesome nurse who was always upbeat, pleasant and a joy to work with.

"Thank you for making me feel more at ease."

**Ron Mittag** (Trade & Business) was complimented for being nice, professional, and providing information beyond what was requested.

"If he is an example of the people you have in this department, then you have an excellent staff."

**Bill Winans** (Agriculture, Weights & Measures) was credited for his ability to "recruit cooperation" in a situation where a couple's ponds were quarantined.

"What could have been a very unpleasant experience, instead gave us a new friend and respect and appreciation for your office."

**Lindsey Worcester** (Agriculture, Weights & Measures) was recognized for being a great help to a new business owner, providing guidance on agriculture requirements and botanical knowledge.

"Moreover, she is always pleasant, polite and efficient and she genuinely enjoys her work. I think she is an example of public service at its finest."

**Rolando Restua** (Probation) was named a "great asset" for the way in which he handled the case of a woman placed on probation.

"[He] made being on probation more bearable, even knowing it was a court order. I felt I wasn't looked down on and never treated as less than a person."



## Volunteers Bring 'Christmas' Cheer in April

When Christmas in April volunteers fan out across the community on April 20 to help fix up houses for people in need, County employees will be there both in body and spirit.

Through the County Employees' Charitable Organization (CECO), employees donated \$3,000 to help restore one of the homes. County employees are also invited to take part in the sprucing up the home sponsored by CECO and the Price Foundation. Volunteers who can commit to the whole day are needed for painting, yard work and fix-it jobs.

Christmas in April is a non-profit organization that uses volunteer power to rehabilitate houses of low-income homeowners, mostly the elderly and disabled, so they can continue to live in warmth, safety and independence. All services are free.

To volunteer or find out more, contact Deborah Olberding at (619) 574-5528 or [Deborah.Olberding@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Deborah.Olberding@sdcounty.ca.gov).

## County Volunteers

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### Mindful Strides

Detective Pam Catlin of the Sheriff's Department is making final preparations to participate in Avon's Breast Cancer Crusade, a three-day, 60-mile walk to raise money for research and access to care.

"There are a lot of women who would love to be doing what I'm doing, but they're not here anymore," Catlin said. Those thoughts have kept her going.

### Foster Friend

Barbara Zell, Assessor/Recorder/Clerk, wanted to get involved in a new volunteer effort, with one-on-one involvement. Encouraged by friends and co-workers who thought she'd make a great mentor for a child, Zell's first call was to the County's Foster Care Mentoring program. The program matches trained mentors with foster children. It requires a huge time commitment, but the payoff is just as big: "It's the feeling that you're making some difference," Zell said.

*Don't forget to go online and read more about these employees in the "County News Extra" section of the newsletter!*

## NewsMakersNewsMakers

**W. Harold Tuck, Jr.** was named General Manager/Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of the Public Safety Group. Tuck, formerly the director of Housing and Community Development, replaces Rich Robinson, who recently retired after a 33-year career with the County.

## Mentoring Program Works Its Magic

More than ever, the departments within the County of San Diego are turning to mentoring to help workers grow in their jobs and further their career paths. The South Region of the Health and Human Services Agency debuted its "Mentor Magic" program last year, and for one pair the process was especially charmed.

Rosa Barragan, then an intermediate clerk typist with Children's Services, had been with the County for about a year when Manuel Garcia, a protective services assistant (PSA) with Children's Services, handed her a flier for the mentoring pilot program.

"I was new with the County," Barragan said. "I wanted to know what else I could do. This [job] was just a step to me."

Garcia, on the other hand, knew quite a lot about the County, having started in the mail room in 1989. He, too, had seen his first job as a starting point, even though it took him a few years to find his way to where he wanted to be.

They both applied to the mentoring program, were accepted and paired up with Garcia as Barragan's mentor. But, because they each had something to give, the pair actually ended up mentoring each other.

Garcia encouraged Barragan to apply for a PSA position and helped her understand "the County ways." Barragan, who was already taking college courses, encouraged Garcia to get the classes he needed to continue his career path as well.

"She's been pushing me," Garcia said of Barragan. "It's been 25 years since I went to school. She's been pushing me about doing homework, she helped me to focus."

The pair has even been able to schedule classes together, like a history class at San Diego City College this spring.

Their advice for others considering a workplace mentoring program: "Go for it," Garcia said. "It might open up some doors; it might lead you to some resources."

After piloting the program in the South Region last year, "Mentor Magic" has been extended to all of HHSA. A new session is about to begin, with an April 16 deadline for applicants. Any HHSA employees interested in "Mentor Magic" should call Bob McDowell at (858) 694-2272.



*Rosa Barragan and Manuel Garcia continue pushing each other toward their career goals.*

County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego.

### Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1  
Dianne Jacob, District 2  
Pam Slater, District 3  
Ron Roberts, District 4  
Bill Horn, District 5

### Chief Administrative Officer

Walter F. Ekard

*This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.*



### EDITORIAL STAFF

Rene Quaresma, Editor

County News is available online at [www.co.san-diego.ca.us/dmpr](http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us/dmpr) (click on "News Center") or via the County's Intranet at [cww/mp](http://cww/mp)

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Mail: MS A-359  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 208  
San Diego, CA 92101

Volume 24, No. 4 April 2002

# COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

## Service Awards

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Congratulations to County employees reaching the following milestones April:

### 35 years

Elaine Hiel (HHSA)  
Larry P. Picolorich (HHSA)

### 30 years

Janet M. Bingham (Auditor & Controller)  
Joseph R. Coker (Superior Court)  
Alvis L. Davis (HHSA)  
Veronica J. Edwards (HHSA)  
Patrick A. Espinoza (District Attorney)  
Wayne R. Freeman (Probation)  
Sam T. Gonzales (Sheriff)  
Stephen D. Hendrix (Parks & Recreation)  
Brian E. Michaels (District Attorney)  
Louis C. Russell (Public Works)  
Brenda Sammons (HHSA)  
Jean P. Stasko (HHSA)  
James L. Toothaker (Probation)  
David E. Wilson (Sheriff)

### 25 years

Nada Vaughn Adams (Superior Court)  
Orlando J. Barajas (Probation)  
Carroll O. Boyd (General Services)  
Sharon R. Brydon (HHSA)  
Thomas A. Burgeson (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk)  
Vergil H. Christenson (Superior Court)  
Wayne R. Dunham (Sheriff)  
Tony C. Fant (Sheriff)  
Myra J. Harrah (District Attorney)  
Patricia A. Jensen (HHSA)  
David J. Lonsdale (Registrar of Voters)  
James E. Mika (Sheriff)  
Michael I. Radovich (Sheriff)  
Charlene V. Roberts (District Attorney)  
Brenda L. Tom (Superior Court)  
Ronald G. Vanraaphorst (Sheriff)

### 20 years

Brian S. Brewster (Superior Court)  
Jesus Gutierrez (Sheriff)  
Ofelia Gutierrez (District Attorney)  
Diana N. Levardo (HHSA)  
Jeffrey S. Mitchell (Sheriff)  
Suzanne C. Reschke (Sheriff)

## In Memoriam

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The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association reports that the following retired employees recently passed away:

Edith C. Barnett (Marshal)	2/21	David E. Miller (General Services)	1/30
Dorothy L. Conk (Welfare)	2/19	Thelma M. Miller (Municipal Court)	2/10
Rachel A. David (Registrar of Voters)	2/24	Judith M. Nelson (Registrar of Voters)	2/07
Mary Ellen Holmes (HHSA)	2/22	Roy C. Sigler (Parks & Recreation)	2/19
Derith M. Hughes (HHSA)	2/27	Frances C. Strange (Social Services)	8/04
Rudy Linden (Civil Service)	2/23	Francis B. Sullivan (Probation)	2/13
Harriet E. Michaelson (Assessor)	2/03		

*County News Extra* includes expanded information about and for County employees. If you have something you'd like considered for either *County News* or *County News Extra*, please contact the newsletter editor at (619) 595-4632 or e-mail at [rcarmich@co.san-diego.ca.us](mailto:rcarmich@co.san-diego.ca.us). Items can also be faxed to (619) 595-4664 or mailed to MSA-359, Attn: *County News*.

## Retirements

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The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association reports the following employees recently retired:

Eileen E. Connolly  
Patricia C. Greene  
Raymond A. Jensen

Roy D. McChriston  
Lawrence V. Messersmith  
Cynthia Reynolds

Marianne C. Rohal  
Donald J. Wood

## Tech Discounts

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The Pennant Alliance has helped arrange telecommunication product discounts for County employees. For more information, call the contacts listed below, or contact Penny Halgren with the County Technology Office at (619) 531-6085.

### **Pacific Bell Voice Mail – The Message Center**

\$7.95/mo for service  
\$9.95 installation

To order, County employees call (800) 675-9005, identify themselves as a San Diego County employee purchasing Message Center services under the Affinity Program and reference their County extension number. Offer valid through Dec. 31, 2002.

### **Pacific Bell Internet Access DSL Service**

\$29.95/ for first three months, \$49.95/mo thereafter  
(No installation fees or minimum plan length)

### **Pacific Bell Internet Dialup Service**

\$19.95/mo or one-time payment of \$222  
(No installation charges)

To order DSL or Dialup Internet access, County employees should call (619) 237-4395. Offer valid through May 31, 2002.

# Celebrating Our Volunteer Spirit

## Volunteer Jobs Keep County Workers Busy Helping Others

From working the "Crime Stoppers" hotline to organizing humanitarian aid for the Afghan people, County employees spend countless hours each year helping both at home and abroad. For some, it's a way to gain new skills. For others, it's a way to give the future generation a chance at success.

A recent survey on giving and volunteerism in the United States showed that nearly half of the nation's adults volunteer their time, representing the equivalent of more than 9 million full-time employees at a value of \$239 billion.

April is traditionally a time to recognize the contributions of volunteers, and the County has many who give back to their community. We'd like to take this opportunity to recognize a few of the many things our employees do when the work day is done.

### Foster Friend

Barbara Zell, Assessor/Recorder/Clerk, has done plenty of volunteer work, but when she started looking for a new project a while back, she decided to focus on something that was more one-on-one.

Encouraged by friends and co-workers who thought she'd make a great mentor for a child, Zell's first call was to the County's Foster Care Mentoring program. The program matches trained mentors with foster children. It requires a huge time commitment, but payoff is just as big: "It's the feeling that you're making some difference," Zell said.

Since June, Zell has worked hard to build a bond with her mentoree, a 12-year-old girl who has been abandoned by most people in her life. It's meant being patient early on, when plans were broken and tickets to plays went unused. It's meant the resolve to honor her commitment at all costs, even driving to Orange County for Christmas when the girl was temporarily placed in a group home up there.

"You shouldn't be doing this if you're not willing to make the commitment," Zell said. "If I was feeding the homeless, and one day I decided I didn't want to feed the homeless, somebody else would be there to feed the homeless. If I bail out on this child, that's a whole different thing, because everybody else has bailed out on this child."

### Fish Tales

Visit The Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography on any given Saturday morning and you'll find Joe DeStefano of Planning and Land Use. Armed with an interest in aquariums and a background in water treatment design, DeStefano devotes four hours a week as a volunteer aquarist.



Joe DeStefano (above) and one of sharks he helps care for (below).



His main project is working with the reef shark exhibit, which is currently home to 11 sharks.

"It's not too different than managing a tank at home, just on a much larger scale," DeStefano said.

He does everything from checking the filtration system and cleaning tank windows to talking with visitors. His duties, on occasion, have taken him into the 15,000-gallon tank to assist in repairs.

DeStefano enjoys the opportunity to educate the public on what he calls "an animal that most people are fascinated by."

### Tip Taker

"Collectively, we make a difference." That's how Betsy Rusby views her contribution as a volunteer.

This 50-year-old word processor from Planning and Land Use comes from a family she describes as "community service oriented." It helped instill the drive to do volunteer work, but it was the completion of a paralegal program in 1999 that really called her to action.

She's used volunteer work as a way to explore career options and has in three years amassed an impressive array of volunteer credits. She currently works two shifts a week for Crime Stoppers through the San Diego Police Department's "VIP"

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## County Volunteers

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program, mainly talking with people who call the Crime Stoppers hotline with tips.

"There's a lot of fulfillment, a real sense of satisfaction for me," Rusby said about her work with Crime Stoppers.

Prior to that, she worked with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyers AIDS Legal Clinic, and as an investigative specialist for the Senior Citizens Legal Clinic.

### Mindful Strides

Walking has taken on a whole new meaning to Detective Pam Catlin, of the Sheriff's Department. It's not just a means to getting somewhere, it's a way to bring attention and raise money for a topic that's near to her—and most everyone she's talked with: breast cancer.

Catlin is making final preparations to participate in a three-day, 60-mile walk sponsored by Avon. Participants start at Legoland on April 12 and end near Sea World on April 14. She'll be walking in part because of her mother, who's a breast cancer survivor, but she says the experience has opened her eyes to just how many people are affected.

To help meet the minimum pledge of \$1,900 for each walker, Catlin sent out letters to friends, family and colleagues asking for their support.

"With their donations, people would send me notes," Catlin said. "They would say 'My mom died of breast cancer' or 'My sister died.' 'I can't walk, but you're walking for me.'"

One day during a 15-mile walk in preparation for the event, Catlin said her feet started aching so bad at mile 11 that she wasn't sure she could go on.

"Then I put in my mind: there are a lot of women who would love to be doing what I'm doing, but they're not here anymore," Catlin said. Those thoughts have kept her going.

### In Honor of Her Aunt

Mariam Barakzoy, of Child Support Services, beams with pride when she talks about her aunt, Suhaila Siddiq, Afghanistan's Minister of Public Health for the interim government. One of her country's most respected surgeons and the only woman general in the Afghan army, Siddiq is considered a heroine for her stand against the Taliban and her commitment to her country.

Although a world away, Barakzoy follows her aunt's life through both personal accounts and stories written about her in major newspapers and magazines.

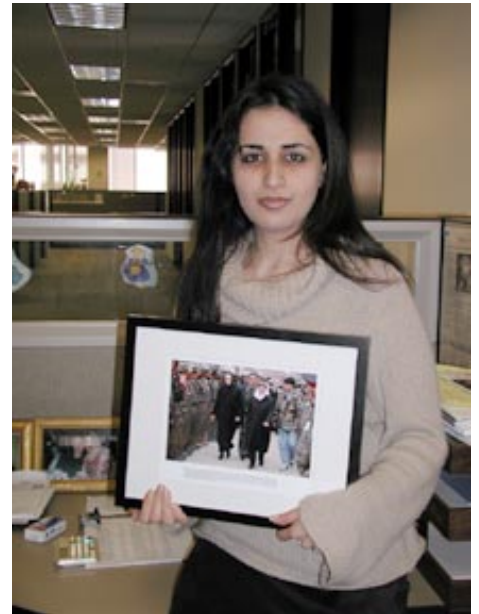
"She's my role model," Barakzoy said. "She motivates me to do more."

Since November, that motivation has turned into action, as Barakzoy has played an active role in the Afghanistan Relief Organization based out of Los Angeles. She spent countless weekend hours on a winter relief project that airlifted clothing, blankets and other humanitarian supplies to aid Afghan people in need. Working out of a warehouse in Orange County, Barakzoy and other volunteers sorted thousands of boxes of donated supplies.

The 747 that delivered the supplies in February was the first commercial jet to land at Kabul International Airport in 30 years, according to United Press International, and the first time a U.S. aircraft had flown a relief mission into the airport since the war on terrorism began.

"It hits very close to home," Barakzoy said. "My heart is there [Afghanistan], even though I've lived here for so long. You never forget, it's always your home."

She said the Afghan community throughout Southern California is tight-knit, and has tried to put together relief efforts in the past. But now, with the world focused on her former country, they're able to accomplish much more than before. Their next project is to collect and distribute much-needed school supplies for the Afghan children, as well as monetary donations to help pay for the storage, transportation and distribution.



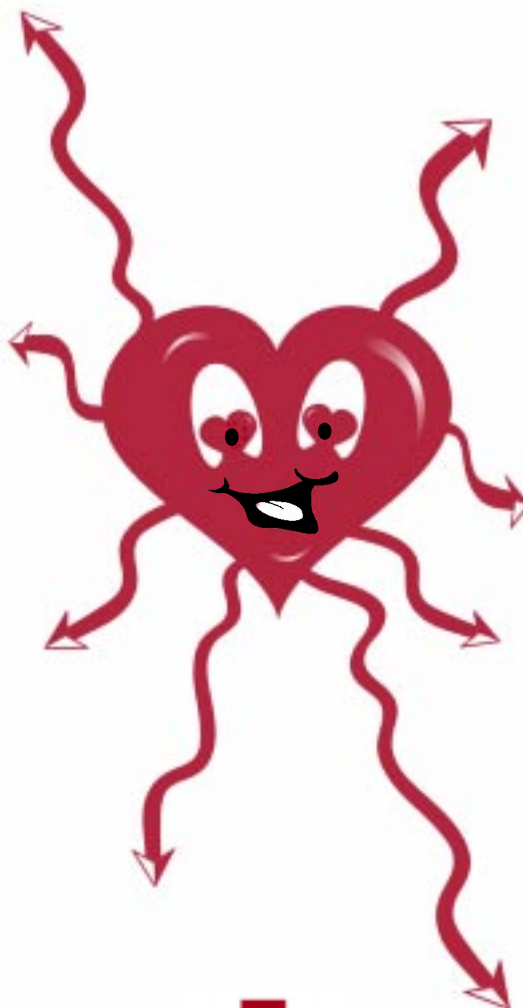
Mariam Barakzoy shares a photo of her aunt who inspired her volunteer work.



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMPLOYEES

## 2002 Blood Drive April 2-25, 2002

**San Diego  
Blood Bank**  
Saving Lives Since 1950



**American  
Red Cross**

**Tuesday, April 2**  
**7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

County Operations Annex, Ruffin Rd.  
Public Administration Warehouse  
**Contact: Susan Vaughn**  
(858) 694-2954

**Thursday, April 4**  
**8 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

South Bay Regional Center Bloodmobile  
**Contact: Lynn Deboo**  
(619) 691-4963

**9:00 am – 2:30 pm**

North County Regional Center  
Courthouse Parking Lot  
**Contact: Rowena Noriega**  
(760) 806-6082

**9:00 am – 2:30 pm**

H.H.S.A. Mission Valley  
7947 Mission Center Ct.  
San Diego, CA 92108  
North Parking Lot  
**Contacts: Judith Edwards**  
(619) 767-5263  
**Marty Smith** (619) 767-5050

**Thursday, April 11**  
**8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

H.H.S.A. Linda Vista, Parking Lot  
6950 Levant St.  
San Diego, CA 92111  
**Contact: Luisa Roberts**  
(858) 694-5275

**9:00 am – 2:30 pm**

County Administration Center  
Room 302 & 303  
**Contacts: Jackie Collins**  
(619) 595-4680

**10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

H.H.S.A. Rosecrans  
Coronado Room  
**Contact: Ruth Molly**  
(619) 692-5785

**10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

H.H.S.A. Escondido  
463 Midway, Parking Lot  
**Contact: Kim Forrester**  
(760) 740-4240  
**Marion Jones** (760) 739-6089  
**Danielle Wisdom** (760) 739-6025

**Friday, April 12**  
**7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

East County Regional Center  
Bloodmobile  
**Contact: Melissa Bodtke**  
(619) 441-6751

**Tuesday, April 16**  
**10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Juvenile Probation Center, Parking Lot  
2901 Meadowlark Dr., SD  
**Contact: Maureen Connelly**  
(858) 514-3212

**Thursday, April 18**  
**8:30 am – 1:30 pm**

H.H.S.A. Chula Vista  
690 Oxford St., Front Parking Lot  
**Contact: Kae Quentin**  
(619) 409-3242  
**Marisa Favila O'Neil** (619) 409-3282

**8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

H.H.S.A. Oceanside, Parking Lot  
1315 Union Plaza Ct.  
**Contact: Julie Bagley**  
(760) 754-5753

**Tuesday, April 23**  
**10:00 am – 3:30 pm**

James R. Mills Building  
Loading Dock  
**Contact: Julie A. Smith**  
(619) 338-2708

**12:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

H.H.S.A. Lemon Grove  
Family Resource Center, Parking Lot  
**Contact: Kurt Sommers**  
(619) 668-3846

**Wednesday, April 24**  
**11:30 am – 4:00 pm**

Edgemoor Hospital  
Admin. Parking Lot  
**Contact: Tiffany Johnson**  
(619) 956-2800  
**Kris Hoganson** (619) 956-2811

**Thursday, April 25**  
**7:00 am – 5:00 pm**

County Courthouse  
1301 Front St.  
Marshal's Traffic Circle  
**Contact: John Loibl**  
(619) 531-4141